Setting up of computerised collection centres for payment of all taxes

1690. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Composite Unified, Computerised Collection Centres for payment of all taxes, bills and charges from citizens on the supplies of Water, Electricity, House Taxes, road taxes Insurance Premia throughout the city on telephones in order to effect easy recoveries; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to make these arrangements with all the Banks in the city in order to increase its revenue and to help the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Examination by the Delhi Administration of a proposal for single-stop payment counter in the banks in MCD/NDMC area, has shown that there are practical difficulties in the way of implementing such a comprehensive scheme.

Gastroenteritis in J & K due to contaminated wheat

1691. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen reports from the NIN Hyderabad which was published in the Nutrition News, January, 1988 regarding J & K gastroenteritis epedemic in September, 1987 to what contaminated with mycotoxins;

(b) when the study was first undertaken by NIN and when the results thereof were sent to Government indicating the follow up action taken to prevent the recurrence of similar tragedies; and

(c) whehter FCI/STC, other warehousing/imports and PDS agencies and other staff have been trained in presentive problems of storage as recommended by the NIN, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A stduy was conducted by National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad to find out the cause of this problem at the request of the Government of J & K which was received on October, 9, 1987. An interim report was submitted in October, 1987 and the final report in December, 1987 indicating that the cause of outbreak was due to consumption of mould damaged wheat products and suggesting control measures.

(c) The National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, conducts periodic training programmes for food inspectors on procedures to detect food toxins. .

Visit to State Capitals by the Planning Commission

1692. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission is visiting various State Capitals for discussion of plan projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Reduction in the military strength of USSR, Pakistan etc.

1693. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the USSR and China are reducing their man-power strength in Military and also reducing their expenditure; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pakistan are increasing their man-power in their armed forces and also spending more; if so, what are the deatils thereof; and

(c) what percentage of their national incomes the military expenses of India, China and Pakistan Constitute?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c) Some reductions in manpower strength have been reported in respect of the Armed Forces of the USSR and China. The USSR has announced planned reduction in its defence expenditure. Some increase in defence expenditure has been reported by the Chinese Government. There has been a steady increase of manpower and expenditure in the Pakistan Armed Forces.

India's defence expenditure as a percentage of national income is one of the lowest amongst the neighbouring countries. Owing to differing parctices of computation and reporting of official statistics, it is difficult to have precise and fully comparable statistics relating to actual defence expenditure as a percentage of respective national incomes.

Irregularities in purchase of orthopaedics equipment in NDMC Hospital

1694. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a case of alleged irregularities in purchase of Orthopaedics Equipment worth lacs of rupees in NDMC Hospital is under investigation by the Central Vigilance Commission;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in addition to the present Medical Superintendent of NDMC Hospital, conduct of some senior officers of NDMC who were indirectly involved with this purchase, is also under investigation by the CVC;

(c) if so, what is the outcome of the enquiry and the reasons for inordinate delay;

(d) whether it is also a fact that inspite of proven corruption charges in a case pertaining o family Planning Operations in NDMC, under investigation by the CVC, the MS has not been shifted from the present post and instead has been given one year's extension of Deputation, in addition to his already completed three years in NDMC; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c). NDMC after investigation of the complaint have sent a detailed report about purchase of Orthopaedics equipment to CVC on 8th July 1988. The CVC has further sought certain clarifications on the issue. NDMC has informed that they will be sending this information to CVC shortly.

(d) and (e) The matter pertaining to Family Planning Operations in NDMC was investigated by NDMCs Vigilance Department. Subsequently the case was forwarded by NDMC to CVC and since then it has been under consideration of CVC and NDMC. On completion of three years, the term of Medical Superintendent, Moti Bagh Hospital, was extended, on request from NDMC, by one year.

Post of Gynaecologist and chest physician lying vacant in NDMC Hospital

1695. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the duly sanctioned post of Gynaecologist and Chest Physician were lying vacant in NDMC Hospital since 1985-86;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the post of Orthopaedics Surgeon was also revived/created during this period;

(c) whether the post of Medical Superintendent in NDMC Hospital is earmarked for an Orthopaedics Surgeon;

(d) if not, what were the reasons for NDMC for specifically requesting the Cen-